

A Biefe de.

claration of the great and
innumerable myseries / &
wretchednesses vsed i courtes ty-
all, made by a lettre, whych may-
ster Alayn Charatré wrote to
hys brother, which desyred
to come dwel in the court,
for to aduise, & counsell
hym not to enter into
it, lest he after re-
pēt, newly aug-
mented, ampli-
fied, & incyt-
ched, By
Francis Segar.

1 5 4 9

He that doth coupe the cōterseye to know
yt it wyl please hym, to take a litle payne
to rede this treatyse, whych here doth folow
Wherin it is discrybed, bryefly, and playnly.

Robert. Wolfe. his. most. humble. prayer.

C. S. to the reader.

2.

Here hast thou expressed before thy eye
The misery and wretchednes of the lyfe carnall
And howe that by so many some dayly do ryse,
And contrarywyse by her agean do fall,

11.
14.

Trust not to fortune which alway is variable
For some she doth exalt & some she byngeth low
She be is neuer true, constant and stable
But as tydes be theyr tymes, to ebbe & to flow

Courtousnes canseth myschefe to ryse
Despye of dignite with pompons ambition
Whoech the wyle man, doth alwaye dyspyse
And is content, wyth hys vocation

Whē froward fortune, with scowrynz face
Is pour inhauncinge, taketh grudge of enuy
In most tyme, she wyl pou displace
And byng you to shame, ruin and mysery

All you þat ar called, vnto any hygh place
Be true vnto your, anoynted kynge
And call vnto God, to geue you the grace
So to continyue, to your lyues endynge.

H M E R.

** * **

court, that they that be simple, be
 dysprayed, & vertuous enuyed, &
 & proud arrogantes, in mortal pe
 ryl. And yf thou be placed vnder
 & other courtiers, thou shalt en
 uy at theyr power, yf & be in mean
 estate, in & which thou hast not suf
 fisaunce, thou shalt labour & strue
 for to mouste & ryle hyer, & yf thou
 mayst come to & hye secretes whi
 che be strongly to doubt, feare, &
 dede, in the doubtfuls courtiers
 of & most hie plices, the shalt & be
 most infortunate, for so moch as &
 thou seest to be most fortunate & hap
 py, so moch more shalt thou be in
 great daunger & perill to fal, like to
 him & is mounted into & most hye
 place, for to the, who fortune & va
 riable hath most byggly lyfte vp,
 and inhauised, resteth nomore, but
 for to falle fro so hye, downe, by
 cause she oweth to them, nothyng
 but shame, ruine, and destruction
 yf that & hast taken of her al that

thou myghteste, and þe she woulde
geue, then arte thou better of thy
selfe, to the ende that she render
þe felde þe infortunate, and unhap-
py, whō she hadde befoze inhaun-
ced. And þe she mocke hym of hys
miscbefē whō she had made blind
of vayn glozy of hys inhaunsyng
foz the great wyndes that blowe
in hys courtes, be of soche nature,
and condicion, þe they only that be
hyghest inhaunsed, be after theyz
dispoynimente/ as a spectacle of
enuy, detractyon oꝝ of hate, vnto
all people, and fynd them self, sub-
iectes, tyl they be shamed and put
down amōg the people, and that
they that befoze stiewed to the and
flattered the repoꝛte of them moze
greater blames and deuyssyons,
the the other, foꝝ the multitude of
people dispryse the alway þe foꝝ-
cune hath most altered, & throwen
down, and also is enuyous at the
that

From Caxtons edit. See Herbert p. 91

